

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A ceramic colorant in the form of a suspension, the colorant comprising particles of colorant having nanometric dimensions in which the solvent of the suspension is a high-boiling alcohol selected from the group consisting of diethylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol, and wherein the suspension includes an appropriate amount of water to facilitate hydrolysis.

2. (Previously Presented) The ceramic colorant according to Claim 1, in which the particles have diameters of between 5 nm and 600 nm.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The colorant according to Claim 1, in which the nanometric particles are chosen in the group consisting of:

$M^{II}M^{III}_2O_4$, where M^{II} is chosen in the group consisting of Fe^{II} , Zn, Co, Ni, Mn, and M^{III} is chosen in the group consisting of Fe^{III} , Al, Cr, Mn, $CoAl_2O_4$, $TiSbO_2$, $TiCrO_2$, $ZrSiO_4$, $PrSiO_4$, $ZrSiO_4$, $VSiO_4$, $(AlCr)_2O_3$, $AlMO_3$ (where $M = Y, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb$), $CrMO_3$ (where $M = Y, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb$), $CaSn_{1-x}Cr_xSiO_5$, $TiSbO_2$, $TiNiO_2$, ZrO_2 , VO_2 , SnO_2 , VO_2 , $Sn_{1-x}Cr_xO_{3-x/2}$ (where x is comprised between 0.01 and 0.1), Au^0 , Ag^0 , Cu^0 .

5. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of ceramic colorants, the process comprising the steps of:

adding salts of desired metals to a known volume of alcohol to form a solution;

heating under stirring the solution to complete solubilization of the salts;

adding an appropriate amount of water for facilitating hydrolysis of the salts;

heating the solution to a temperature higher than 150°C for furthering the hydrolysis and to form a suspension;

cooling the suspension to room temperature once the hydrolysis reaction is completed;

utilizing one of dialysis and ultrafiltration to perform at least one of eliminating the salts and replacing the solvent;

centrifuging the suspension to form a precipitate.

6. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 further including the steps of:
adding reagents (solutions of salts of metals) to a polar solvent previously brought to the desired temperature of hydrolysis;
bringing the suspension to room temperature; and
dehydrating the reaction environment with dehydrating agents.
7. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 further including the steps of:
dissolving the salts are in the high-boiling alcohol at an adequate temperature;
adding an unmixable solvent to the high-boiling alcohol to form an emulsion of micelles of nanometric dimensions;
adding an appropriate amount of water to the suspension under stirring to facilitate hydrolysis, allowing it to react at a temperature higher than 120°C; and
cooling the suspension to room temperature.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 5 further including the step of collecting and drying the precipitate to obtain the colorant in the form of a powder.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The A colorant prepared by the process of Claim 12 wherein the colorant is in the form of powder, wherein such colorant is prepared by:~~
adding salts of desired metals to a known volume of alcohol to form a solution;
heating under stirring the solution to complete solubilization of the salts;
adding an appropriate amount of water for facilitating hydrolysis of the salts;
heating the solution to a temperature higher than 150°C for furthering the hydrolysis and to form a suspension;
cooling the suspension to room temperature once the hydrolysis reaction is completed;
utilizing one of dialysis and ultrafiltration to perform at least one of eliminating the salts and replacing the solvent;

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centrifuging the suspension to form a precipitate; and
collecting and drying the precipitate to obtain the colorant in the form of a
powder.